Export/import of goods

*19. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of goods imported and exported alongwith the foreign exchange spent and earned thereon during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the steps taken by Government to produce and manufacture the goods being imported into the country; and

(c) if no action has been taken so far, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the value of India's imports were US$ 51413 million, US$ 60189 million and US$ 75209 million (Provisional) during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively. During the same period the value of India's total exports were US$ 43827 million, US$ 52742 million and US$ 61845 million (Provisional).

(b) and (c) As part of the Industrial Policy and Economic Reforms Policy, many steps have been taken to revitalize the manufacturing sector to enable production of goods which can be manufactured in India, but are imported. Some of these measures are liberalization of industrial licensing policy leading to a substantial reduction in the number of items requiring compulsory licensing; simplified locational policy for setting up of new units; and Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme to help creation of quality infrastructure in industrial clusters/locations and enhance competitiveness of domestic industry through increased productivity.

Poverty in the country

*20. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether poverty in the country is on the decline as per the World Bank report;

(b) if so, the features of the report;